

## **BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS**

**The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Engineers was held Oct. 29, 2007; meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance: Chief Al Galinelli, Norman Blank, Brian Remy, Robert Miner, James Sousa, Jon Ulmschneider, Christopher Stanley, & Carolyn O'Brien. Also: Anthony Primiano, Daniel Costa, Louis Stravato, & Darryl Larrivee.**

**Minutes from previous meeting read. R. Miner made motion, seconded by J. Ulmschneider, to accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Correspondence:**

**„« Individual companies' correspondence distributed.**

**„« ID's distributed.**

### **Old Business:**

**„« Chief stated he would like to keep Car 1, 2, 3, etc. designations, but change captains to C-1, C-2, C-3, etc. This system will be put into effect Jan. 1, 2008 for a 90-day trial period to see if it works.**

### **New Business:**

**„« D. Costa was suspended for insubordination to a rescue lieutenant. On Oct. 10, 2007 several letters of complaint were written about him (copies of each were given to D. Costa). Lt. Primiano stated he received a call from that day's duty crew that D. Costa did**

not get out of bed by 1:30 p.m. and remove his personal belongings when requested. D. Costa informed Lt. Primiano that rescue could not survive without him, and he left in an agitated mood, without taking his personal items; these were locked up for safety. D. Costa, at the meeting, apologized to Lt. Primiano for snapping at him. Chief stated when he previously told D. Costa to speak with the lieutenant and apologize before the situation got out of hand, and he asked D. Costa why he had not handled it. His response was that he had not seen the lieutenant. Chief then read letters from M. Souza, M. Scherwitz, Omer Letellier, & Darryl Larrivee about the situation. L. Stravato confirmed the incident about D. Costa sleeping so late; and stated he asked him to get up so the station could be cleaned, including removing personal items from the station and rescue truck. L. Stravato said he contacted L-5, who told him to call Lt. Primiano after D. Costa would not get up. Chief stated although there is a serious problem with this individual, he has a problem with rescue officers "nit-picking". N. Blank questioned why several lieutenants needed to be contacted. D. Costa said when he went to rescue, there was nobody on the duty crew scheduled; the names were added after he was sleeping.

Chief read letter about another incident where D. Costa asked rescue to stop on the way back from the hospital for him to get ice cream; Chief feels this is minor. However, Chief did ask D. Costa why he felt it was okay for him to have rescue stop on Thayer St. in Providence even though he was senior on the truck, which is out of the way, so

he could eat. Chief informed Costa he was wrong; however, Chief questioned why a first responder (D. Larrivee) was asked to write a letter about a cardiac. Chief further stated if we have rescue lieutenants who are "headhunters", unless it's for serious, valid reasons, that we don't need them. Chief stated Board of Fire Engineers should be reviewing actual problems, i.e. taking the trucks out of the designated areas, insubordination, and rude comments; disciplinary actions should be determined accordingly.

N. Blank made motion, seconded by B. Remy, to go into executive session for the Board to discuss the situation. Motion unanimously passed.

Following executive session, D. Costa called back in. Chief advised him the Board's decision is based on the insubordination, and taking the rescue truck into an area not warranted, but does not take the other letters of complaint into consideration. He is suspended for a period of sixty (60) days, until Dec. 10, 2007; this period gives credit for the time from October 10th to the present. In addition, he is to appear before the Board of Fire Engineers at their December meeting, which will be changed to Dec. 11, 2007, and serve a one (1) year probationary period beginning Dec. 10, 2007. The suspension and probationary period cover both fire department and rescue squad. In addition, he was given seventy-two (72) hours to vacate Station 6; however, Chief advised D. Costa to let

him know if he is unable to find a place to stay within that time frame. Chief informed D. Costa that he did let the Board know about Costa getting assistance for anger management, and that it would be helpful if he provided written verification he has been getting help for this. D. Costa accepted all terms. Chief advised him that he has been given many more chances than most, so these results should not be viewed in the wrong way.

„« Truck/Room Stewards listing updated.

„« Movies/Magazines ¡V Chief distributed memo re: inappropriate reading/viewing materials brought into the stations. Chief stated owner of the two videos found at rescue headquarters must personally pick them up from the Chief's office.

„« Chief stated he received an e-mail from a female Laidlaw bus driver who lives near rescue headquarters complaining about a „lieutenant“ from rescue who has been causing her problems. Chief stated he cannot do anything about the complaint unless she is willing to let him know who the individual is; she has not given him that information, even though she appears to know who it is.

„« Chief stated donations from area businesses are to be politely asked for, not demanded.

„« Photo ID's ¡V Scheduled for Nov. 7th from 0900-1300 and 1800-2000 hours in the Chief's office. This is for any department member who does not already have them.

„« Chief distributed memo that any changes of any type, including but not limited to building services, must be submitted to him prior to being done since these are town owned buildings.

**„« Updated Emergency Access Box listing distributed.**

**„« Chief informed Board that Steve Asselin's company is making a new gas boiler, the proto-type of which they would like to install in Station 2 to determine how well it works. If it does work, it will be donated to us.**

**„« Jordon Lewis was arrested for taking old license plates from abandoned vehicles at the Highway Dept., which was classified as larceny under \$500.; he pleaded nolo in court. If he does not get into any more trouble in the next year, this will not remain on his record. Chief explained to the Board J. Lewis did not think he was doing anything wrong since the vehicles were abandoned, although they were on town property. He also informed the Board that Captain Jannito does not want Lewis removed from the company. Chief asked how the Board wanted to handle the situation. J. Ulmschneider made motion, seconded by R. Miner, to take no action against J. Lewis for the incident; the motion carried unanimously.**

**„« Chief distributed memo about a Market Street project to replace sidewalks, and how it will affect the fire department in general while on-going.**

**„« Andrew Deschenes submitted a letter requesting he be permitted to respond to rescue calls while he is home on school breaks; he is currently on an educational leave of absence. This was approved.**

**„« Chief informed Board there are currently 55 radio boxes installed throughout town.**

**„« Chief distributed information about purchasing playground bricks; Chief said he will purchase one for fire department.**

**„« Chief stated he made a rescue deposit today. He said he asked the rescue lieutenant to sign a form removing the lieutenant's name from the account; to date he has not done so. Chief now has the checkbook, but needs the signed form in order to pay bills, some of which are now past due. Chief informed Lt. A. Primiano to have the signed form in the Chief's office by 1500 hours on Wednesday, or he will take the checkbook to the credit union and close the account, and open a new account under the Chief's and Town Manager's signatures. Chief stated there are three town businesses who will not let rescue charge again until the current bills are paid; some not paid since July.**

#### **Training:**

**„« HazMat classes scheduled for Saturdays, Nov. 24th and Dec. 1st; attendance at both mandatory. Registration forms distributed to be taken to November company meetings. Class is for anyone already taken FF I but not HazMat, and anyone wanting to take the next FF I. Forms must be in Chief's office no later than Nov. 8th.**

**„« SCBA's iV Chief needs list of anyone who needs to be fit tested.**

**„« FedEx memo iV Chief stated FedEx property cannot be used for training until further notice. Each time the hydrant is opened, it trips the fire alarm and sprinkler system, which costs the company \$900 each time to recharge the system. Chief sent a letter to FedEx concerning the problem, which they need to have checked.**

**„« Re-certification class on-going.**

**„« CDL forms distributed to give back to individuals, in order that they can take their tests.**

**„« N. Blank distributed list of those who attended all cross training for department vehicles.**

**There being no further business to discuss, N. Blank made motion, seconded by B. Remy, to adjourn. Motion unanimously passed; meeting adjourned at 2130 hours.**